BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present invention, and for further features and advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURES 1a-1c are block diagrams illustrating greatly enlarged cross-section views of various exemplary embodiments of blazed grating-based apparatus operable to facilitate high speed optical signal processing;

FIGURES 2a and 2b illustrate planar views of one particular embodiment of an apparatus operable to facilitate high speed optical signal processing;

FIGURES 3a-c are cross-sectional and planar diagrams showing one example of a blazed grating device;

FIGURES 4a-c are cross-sectional and planar diagrams showing another example of a blazed grating device;

FIGURES 5a-c are cross-sectional and planar diagrams showing still another example of a blazed grating device;

FIGURES 6a-c are cross-sectional and planar diagrams showing yet another example of a blazed grating device;

FIGURES 7a and 7b illustrate blazed grating based variable optical attenuators;

FIGURE 8 is a block diagram showing a combination of a variable blazed grating and an optical circulator;

FIGURES 9a-9b are block diagrams illustrating examples of blazed grating based 1x2 optical switches;

FIGURES 10a-10b are block diagrams illustrating various modes of operation of a blazed grating based 2x2 optical switch;

FIGURES 11a-11h are block diagrams illustrating examples of various embodiments of blazed grating based optical add/drop multiplexers;

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